

Appl. No. 10/019,650

Art Unit 3761

August 16, 2004

Second Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article which is provided with a liquid permeable surface sheet, a liquid impermeable leakage-prevention sheet and a liquid-retaining absorbent is formed substantially oblong, and is provided on longitudinal opposite sides thereof with a pair of right and left, elastic member-carrying three-dimensional guards,

wherein said three-dimensional guards each has a skin-contacting surface portion formed by folding back a side on a free side towards the outer side of said absorbent article, and

said elastic members are respectively disposed and fixed to (i) said skin-contacting surface portion and to (ii) an approximately widthwise central portion of a raised portion, wherein said raised portion is located between said skin-contacting surface portion and a base end of said three-dimensional guard.

Appl. No. 10/019,650

Art Unit 3761

August 16, 2004

Second Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

2. (Original) An absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein a total width of said elastic member disposed on said skin-contacting surface portion is larger than a total width of said elastic member disposed on said raised portion.

3. (Original) An absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein a ratio ($W1/W2$) between a width $W1$ of said skin-contacting surface portion and a width $W2$ of said raised portion is 0.1 to 1.0.

4. (Original) An absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein a stress of said skin-contacting surface portion is larger than a stress of said raised portion.

5. (Original) An absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein a leg portion has no leg gather, and when said raised portion is bisected in the width direction into a lower half portion and an upper half portion, a stress of said lower half portion is larger than a stress of said upper half portion.

6. (Original) An absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said skin-contacting surface portion is folded back along

Appl. No. 10/019,650

Art Unit 3761

August 16, 2004

Second Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

said elastic member at a part of the location of said elastic member nearest to said raised portion.